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*Plague in the United States as reported to the Surgeon-General, United States Marine-Hospital Service, from January 1, 1901, to March 15, 1901.*

## PLAQUE.

Place.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
California:				
San Francisco.....	Jan. 6.....	1	1	
Do.....	Jan. 15.....	2	2	
Do.....	Feb. 5.....	1	1	
Do.....	Feb. 6.....	1	1	
Do.....	Feb. 7.....	1	1	
Do.....	Feb. 10.....	1	1	
Do.....	Feb. 11.....	1	1	
Do.....	Feb. 12.....	1	1	
Do.....	Mar. 2.....	1	1	

[Of the above cases, those reported in February, 6 cases and deaths between February 5 and 12 were reported by a special commission appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury to examine into the plague situation in San Francisco. This commission consisted of Prof. Simon Flexner, of the University of Pennsylvania, chairman; Prof. F. G. Novy, of the University of Michigan, and Prof. L. S. Barker, of the University of Chicago, recorder.

Plague has been reported in San Francisco officially in the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS since March 6, 1900, 32 cases (all fatal) having been reported and published in previous numbers of the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, and the facts were reported in the annual report to Congress of the Secretary of the Treasury, dated December 4, 1900.

While the correctness of the diagnosis has never been doubted by the Bureau or the Department, it was deemed advisable to summon an independent board of experts, composed as above mentioned. On completion of their labors the results of their investigation, as outlined above, were immediately communicated by them to the governor of California and the mayor and representatives of the business interests of San Francisco, and full copies of the report subsequently furnished. Coincidently with the receipt of the report of the commission at the Bureau, a committee representing the business interests of San Francisco and the mayor, and the governor of California, arrived in Washington, and a conference was held between this committee and the Secretary of the Treasury and Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service, in which conference all the facts were discussed and a written agreement made for harmonious action in suppressive measures under the advice of Surg. J. H. White, who is on the ground.

On the return of this committee to San Francisco, Surgeon White wired, on March 22, that they had agreed to "raise funds for immediate work as follows: Disinfect all infected houses, provide hospital for suspects, detention houses, and morgue. The general disinfection Chinatown, with betterment of light and air space." Subsequent telegrams show that the work is being organized.

The disease has been confined almost exclusively to the Chinese and an examination of the mortuary records of the latter for the last four years shows that there has been no time during that period when it has increased to such an extent as to in itself cause alarm.

The prevailing type so far as known is of the bubonic form which, according to M. de Brun (see article on page 539, PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS of March 15, 1901), is of a mildly contagious character, but it is undetermined how soon these cases may give rise to cases of a graver and more contagious form of the disease, which emphasizes the necessity of prompt and thorough measures to eradicate every form of the disease.]